

Serial No. 10/022,622

Docket No. SCH-0008

Amdt. dated April 27, 2006

Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2006

REMARKS

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claims 1-3 and 13 without disclaimer. Further, Applicant has amended claims 4-7, 9, 11, 12 and 14 to further clarify the invention. Claims 4-12 and 14-17 remain pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 11-12 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,751,233 (Hann) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,567 (Yoo). Claims 5-9, and 13-14 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-9 and 13 and 14 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 11-12 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hann in view of Yoo. Applicant has canceled claims 1-3. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as to the remaining pending claims.

Hann discloses a system for an interface between a physical layer and a communication network. The system comprises a UTOPIA 3 physical layer receiver operable to receive

information from a physical layer device, a UTOPIA 2 to UTOPIA 3 controller operable to receive data from UTOPIA 3 physical layer receiver and convert it to a UTOPIA 2 format; and a UTOPIA 2 master receiver coupled to UTOPIA 2 to UTOPIA 3 controller and operable to receive information from the UTOPIA 2 to UTOPIA 3 controller and send it to the higher communication network. The system also includes a UTOPIA 2 master transmitter operable to receive data information from a communication network; a UTOPIA 2 to UTOPIA 3 controller transmitter coupled to the UTOPIA 2 master transmitter and operable to receive data from UTOPIA 2 master transmitter, and a UTOPIA 3 physical layer transmitter operable to receive data from the UTOPIA 3 to UTOPIA 2 controller transmitter and send the data to a physical layer device.

Yoo discloses a system for multiplexing/demultiplexing an ATM IPC cell in an ATM exchange. The system includes an IPC cell multiplexing/demultiplexing circuit connected between an operation and maintenance processor, first to third subscriber control processors and an ATM switch. The IPC cell multiplexing/demultiplexing circuit reads a virtual path identifier (VPI) value of an IPC cell received from the ATM switch to select a processor to transfer the IPC cell to, transfers the received IPC cell to the corresponding processor at a speed of 100 Mbps, and multiplexes the IPC cell received from a specific processor among the operation and maintenance processor and the first to third subscriber control processors.

Regarding claim 15, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of these claims. For example, the Examiner asserts that Hann discloses a controller for monitoring and controlling the entire operation of the subscriber unit, discarding abnormal cells and recovering cell synchronization, in figure 2 units 50 and 25. However, these portions merely disclose a UTOPIA 2 master controller 50 part of a transmit side of an UTOPIA 2 to UTOPIA 3 expander system, and a master controller receiver 25 part of a receiver side of the expander system. This is not a controller for monitoring and controlling the entire operation of the subscriber unit, discarding abnormal cells and receiving cell synchronization, as recited in the claims of the present application. These portions do not disclose or suggest anything about a controller that discards abnormal cells and recovers cell synchronization.

Further, the Examiner asserts that Hann discloses a FIFO manager connected to the controller for transmitting and receiving cells to/from the controller, in figure 2 units 52 and 24 and col. 3, lines 12-14. However, these portions merely disclose a UTOPIA 3 controller 52 to receive data and a UTOPIA 3 controller 24 that includes a FIFO buffer. This is not a FIFO manager connected to the controller, as recited in the claims of the present application. The fact that the UTOPIA 3 controller 24 includes a FIFO is not an FIFO manager.

Moreover, the Examiner asserts that Hann discloses a reception FIFO means for temporarily storing a cell received from a different ATM exchange and transmitting the stored

cell to the FIFO manager, in figure 2, unit 23 and col. 3, lines 15-30. However, these portions merely disclose that a UTOPIA 3 physical layer receiver internally converts the format of the incoming data to UTOPIA 3 format and that the UTOPIA 3 physical receiver sends data with a parity check line to a UTOPIA 3 controller to be placed in the FIFO buffer. This is not a reception FIFO means for temporarily storing a cell received from a different ATM exchange and transmitting the stored cell to the FIFO manager, as recited in the claims of the present application. Unit 23 is merely a physical layer receiver that converts the format of incoming data. These portions do not disclose or suggest anything related to a reception FIFO means or transmitting stored cells to a FIFO manager.

The Examiner further asserts that Hann discloses a transmission FIFO means for temporarily storing a cell transmitted from the FIFO manager and transmitting the stored cell externally, in figure 2 unit 54 and col. 4, lines 14-30. However, these portions merely disclose UTOPIA 3 physical layer transmitter 54 and that data is written into a buffer and then transmitted by the UTOPIA 3 physical layer transmitter 54. This is not a transmission FIFO means for temporarily storing a cell transmitted from the FIFO manager and transmitting the stored cell externally, as recited in the claims of the present application. These portions merely disclose data being written to a buffer and then transmitted through a physical layer transmitter.

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Regarding claim 4, Applicant has amended this claim with the limitations from claim 13, deemed allowable by the Examiner and submit that this claim is patentable over the cited references at least for these reasons..

Regarding claims 11, 12, 16 and 17, Applicant submits that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 4 and 15 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding these independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 4, 11, 12 and 15-17. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks Applicant submits that claims 4-12 and 14-17 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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